

Reply to Office Action under 37 CFR §1.111
Serial No. 09/393,482
August 23, 2002

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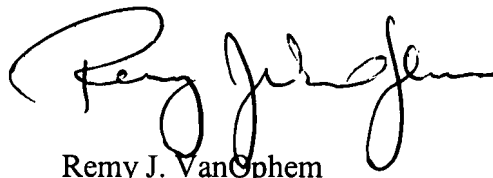
Joseph et al. do not teach or suggest providing localized support along a predetermined longitudinal extent defined by an area of peak crimp force as a solution to problems of beam deflection failure of a liner like that disclosed in Joseph et al., excessive cost, and excessive weight associated with unnecessarily long reinforcements.

The undersigned wishes to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the indication that Claims 6-10 are allowed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fee associated with this amendment to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 22-0212. If the Examiner has any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (248) 362-1210.

Respectfully submitted,

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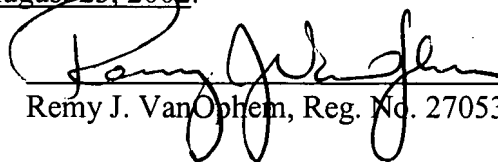


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Certificate under 37 CFR §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 23, 2002.

Date: August 23, 2002



Remy J. VanOphem, Reg. No. 27053